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longest letter ever written by Washington is in the possession of Mr. Mitchell, with the letter of Martha Washington to Mrs. Green. One of the documents in the same hands represents a division of the negroes of Brother Lawrence between Col. Geo. Lee, and the widow and brothers of the deceased Lawrence, the valuations ranging from £25, the appraisal of Old Moll, to £60. This valuable collection is exclusively in papers and books. It contained the family Bible, now owned by Mr. Gunther of Chicago at a cost of \$5,000, with the records of members, obituary notices clipped from newspapers, and other data, for which the British Museum made an offer, which was not accepted.

The Washington relics have been apparently drifting with a strong current to this city. Since the Philadelphia dispersion, the Washington portrait, which was painted for Madison, has come into the hands of Mr. Sypher for disposal. This work by Stuart was purchased by its recent owner in the Madison sale, and until the present transfer its ownership had not since been changed.

A MEDAL-PORTRAIT EXHIBITION

ON November 5th the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society gave an exhibition of a medallion portrait gallery of historical interest at its rooms, 101 East Twentieth street. The gallery consisted of thirty-two medals—a few among the many in the society's cabinet—containing the portraits of people who have been prominent in this and other countries. The coins were not selected as forming any particular series, but were simply picked out here and there, as the fancy of the exhibitors dictated.

The United States was represented by medals of Washington, Franklin, Lincoln, Washington Irving, Joseph Francis, the inventor and framer of the Life-Saving Service, and Stephen Decatur. The Decatur medal is the original silver one presented by Congress to Lieutenant George C. Read for distinguished gallantry at the capture of the British frigate *Macedonian*.

The English medals included the bronze one struck in January, 1877, when Victoria was hailed Empress of India. There were also medals of Sir Walter Scott, Shakespeare, Arthur, Duke of Wellington, and the heroic General Picton, who was shot at Waterloo. The Picton medal is a very beautiful piece of work, and represents the General planting his colors on the ramparts of Badajoz. Of German medals there were shown representations of Luther, Calvin, Humboldt, Schiller, and Wagner. On the obverse of the Wagner medal, which is of bronze, are represented personages from the master's compositions grouped on a bridge inscribed "Bayreuth." The French medals were those of Catharine de Medicis, Louis XVI, Lafayette, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charles X, Napoleon III and Eugénie. The Swedish medals are those of Gustavus Adolphus and Linnæus. Among the Italian medals shown was a very rare copper one, struck to commemorate the Massacre of St. Bartholomew. On the obverse is the bust of Pope Gregory XIII; on the reverse is a destroying angel with cross trampling on prostrate figures. It is inscribed "Strages Vgottorum" (the slaughter of the Huguenots) and is dated 1542.

Perhaps the most curious medal in the collection was a Dutch medal in antique silver of Admiral de Ruyter. It is composed of two thin silver plates, bound round with a large projecting rim, and the embossed work is extraordinary. On the obverse is a bust of the Admiral, full faced; above, two Tritons holding a naval crown over his head, with trophies of arms behind him. The incised legend reads: "De Ruyter, who checked the courage of the English, thus lives in gold and silver by the hands of Müller. 14 June, 1666." On the reverse is represented a naval engagement, with the legend: "Here did the English strike their flag to the Dutch. Never did the sea resound with such a tremendous conflict."

Besides the medals there was also on exhibition a collection of forty-eight handsomely-bound and rare volumes on numismatics, recently presented to the society by its president, Daniel Parish, Jr.

THE WATER COLOR CLUB

THE second annual exhibition of the New York Water Color Club will open at the Fifth Avenue Art Galleries on the 30th inst., to continue until December 18th. The exhibition will consist of original water colors and pastels which have not before been exhibited in public.

Collectors of Egyptian antiquities will be interested in knowing that a regular manufacturer of mummies has been discovered at Alexandria. This ingenious person has been making mummies out of asses' skins, prepared after a peculiar method of his own invention. After selling large numbers of alleged mummies of the ancient Kings of Egypt, he thought it prudent to describe his wares as the remains of Egyptian High Priests; but this dodge ultimately led to his detection. His manufactured Pharaohs have deceived a vast number of collectors, and it is believed that a considerable proportion of the mummies taken away from Egypt during the last few years have been spurious articles.

MURILLO IN THE MARKET

THE coming boom among the old masters in our market, if the signs point truly, is to be for Murillo. This is the only country which is not already well provided with his works, but there are a plenty to go round. So far, the Murillos in the United States are easily counted. The Metropolitan Museum has, or had, a "Sacred Family," which came from a Peruvian convent, and was purchased and presented to the Museum by the late J. J. Astor in 1874. The Aspinwall collection contained two—an "Immaculate Conception," which was stolen from Madrid by General Desolles, and a little child with a cat. The former is now in the Scripps collection in the Detroit Museum. In the Bryan collection was a "St. Joseph and the Infant Jesus"; in that of Mr. C. B. Curtis is a "San Diego de Alcalá," and in that of Mr. J. L. O'Sullivan a "Saint Isabel of Hungary." Mr. Frederick E. Church, the artist, owns a "Santa Rosa de Lima"; Mr. M. H. Arnot, of Elmira, an "Infant Jesus Sleeping," and Mr. George Peabody, of Salem, Mass., a "Conception." The Bryan Murillo is now, I believe, the property of the New York Historical Society. A year or so ago Mr. William Schaus exhibited at his house a fine, large "Adoration of the Shepherds," which is still in this country. It came from a Spanish church. In Baltimore, Dr. George Reuling owned, if he does not still, a powerful martyrdom of some saint or missionary at the hands of brutal soldiers, which he had obtained from a Mexican source. The Scripps collection in Detroit has, besides the "Conception," a "Martyrdom of St. Andrew," from the Leigh Court sale. At this juncture it is not uninteresting to follow the course of the Murillos in the auction sales during a century, since he first made his appearance under the hammer:

Julienne sale, 1767, "Las Bodas de Canaan," 6,000 fr.
Gaignart sale, 1768, "Sacra Familia," 17,535 fr.
Blondel de Gagny sale, 1776, "La Florista" (a single figure), 12,000 fr.
Praslin sale, 1777, "La Virgen con el Niño," 10,999 fr.
Praslin sale, 1793, "San Juanito," 3,320 fr.
Bonnetmaison sale, 1827, "La Adoracion de los Pastores," 21,500 fr.
Aguado sale, 1843, "La Muerte de Santa Clara," 19,000 fr.
King of Holland's sale, 1850, "La Sagrada Familia," 10,141 fr.; "La Ascension de la Virgen," 82,000 fr.
Soult sale, 1852, "Cristo en la Cruz," 3,100 fr.; "La Glorificacion de la Virgen," 5,000; "El Arrepentimiento de San Pedro," 5,775; "Unos Muchachos," 9,000; "Mater Dolorosa," 10,600; "San Antonio de Padua, con el Niño Jesus," 10,710; "El Alma de San Felipe Supiendo á la Gloria," 15,750; "La Peste," 21,000; "Monje Detenido par un Bandolero," 25,000; "La Huida a Egipto," 54,075; "Jesus y San Juan, Niños," 66,150; "El Milagro de San Diego," 89,775; "El Nacimiento de la Virgen," 95,500; "San Pedro en la Prison," 158,550; "La Immaculada Concepcion," 615,300; making a total for the Murillos in the sale of 1,163,245 francs.
Louis Philippe sale, 1853, "Retrato de Murillo," 10,500 fr.; "San Augustin," 17,000; "Santo Tomas," 17,750; "La Concepcion," 20,050; "La Magdalena," 21,000; "Retrato de D. Andrés de Andrade," 25,500; "La Virgen de la Faga," 38,750 fr.
Satureau sale, 1857, "El Niño Jesus Dormido," 41,500 fr.
Aguado sale (second), 1865, "La Muerte de Santa Clara," 75,000 fr. (sold in 1845 for 19,000 fr.)
Pourtalles Gorgier sale, 1865, "San Jose con el Niño," 15,000 fr.; "La Virgen con el Niño," 18,000; "El Triunfo de la Eucaristia," 67,500 fr.
Delessert sale, 1869, "La Sagrada Familia," 10,000 fr.
Guizot sale, 1874, "El Niño Jesus Pastor," 125,000 fr.
Schneider sale, 1876, "La Immaculada Concepcion," 22,000 fr.
Strafford sale, 1878, "La Virgen y el Niño," 16,750 fr.
Hotel Drouot, 1829, "La Magdalena," 25,500 fr.
Hamilton Palace sale, 1882, "El Niño Jesus Dormido," 60,375 fr.
Aguado sale (third), 1883, "Retrato de un Monje," 51,000 fr.
Dreyfus sale, 1889, "Santa Rosa de Lima," 9,100 fr.; "Le Jeune Tobie et l'Ange," 1,250; "Suzanne et les deux Vieillards," 800 fr.

A year ago I noted in this paper a volume of Chinese drawings in water colors which had been the property of Beckford, the author of "Vathek," and which had come into the possession of Mr. S. P. Avery, Jr. Although offered at a very moderate price, this curious and valuable work found no taker and it was finally broken up, the drawings being divided among four gentlemen, of whom Mr. Avery was one. Now a couple of them may be seen, framed, in the Avery Galleries. They represent respectively the God of War and the God of Music, and are well worth anyone's inspection. The colors have lasted all these years without the slightest hint of fading. In the clear-cut style of workmanship those drawings have something in common with the illuminated missals of the mediæval age. No mediæval monk ever imagined such gruesome gods as these, though. The God of Music is almost as forbidding as the God of War, though he has only one face and the latter has three. The extravagant fancy of the Oriental artist enjoys its full license in these works, and they are eminently characteristic of their origin. It is a pity the entire collection was not secured for some museum. As an illustration of Chinese art it would have been of the utmost value.